

SPECIFICATION

ELECTRICAL CARD CONNECTOR HAVING SHUTTER MECHANISM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention generally relates to an electrical card connector, and particularly to an electrical card connector having a shutter mechanism for dust-proof.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ARTS

[0002] With the development of portable computer, the dimension of the portable computer gets more and more smaller so that the computer need more memory cards to meeting the requirement. The electrical card connectors are widely used in the portable computer. However, the portable computer is often used in open air, the dust may enter into the interior of the portable computer through the opening of the electrical card connector, too much dust influences the work of the portable computer, and even shortens the life of the portable computer. Accordingly, the electrical card connector always has a shutter mechanism for preventing the dust from entering into the interior of the portable computer.

[0003] U.S. Patent No. 6,368,123 discloses an electrical card connector having a shutter mechanism for dust-proof. The electrical card connector comprises a guiding frame, a pair of shutter mechanisms, a support frame composed of an upper frame and a lower frame and a pair of mounting pieces. The shutter mechanisms are assembled to the upper frame and the lower frame of the support frame, respectively. The mounting pieces extend backwardly from

opposite ends of the support frame respectively, wherein the mounting pieces are mounted to the mounting holes of the guiding frame of the electrical card connector. The mounting pieces are very slim and are easily deformed. Additionally, the mounting pieces are retained to the shell by screws, the process of assembly is relatively complicated.

[0004] Hence, it is desirable to have an improved connector to overcome the above-mentioned disadvantages of the prior art.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an electrical card connector which has a shutter mechanism with a simple structure and easily assembled to the electrical card connector.

[0006] In order to achieve the above-mentioned objects, an electrical card connector includes a terminal module, a shell, an ejector and a shutter mechanism. The terminal module comprises an insulative housing and a plurality of terminals received in the insulative housing. The shell is assembled to the terminal module and comprises a cover and a pair of lateral walls extending from opposite sides of the cover. The ejector is assembled to the lateral wall of the shell. The shutter mechanism is away from the terminal module and includes a mounting member and a door member. The mounting member includes a pair of arms. One of the arms is assembled to the ejector, and the other of the arms is assembled to the lateral wall of the shell. The arms define a pair of holes and the door member includes a pair of posts pivotally received in the holes and a base portion rotatable about the post.

[0007] Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present

embodiment when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an electrical card connector in accordance with the present invention;

[0009] FIG. 2 is another perspective view of the electrical card connector shown in FIG 1;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 2 but a shutter mechanism of the electrical card connector is not shown;

[0011] FIG. 4 is an exploded, perspective view of the shutter mechanism; and

[0012] FIG. 5 is a partially enlarged view of the electrical card connector show in FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0013] Reference will now be made to the drawing figures to describe the present invention in detail.

[0014] With reference to FIGs. 1-3, an electrical card connector 1 comprises a terminal module 12, a shell 13, an ejector 14 and a shutter mechanism 15.

[0015] The terminal module 12 comprises an insulative housing 121 and a plurality of terminals 122 retained to the insulative housing 121. The shell 13 comprises a cover 131 and a pair of lateral walls 132, 133 extending downwardly from the cover 131. The lateral wall 133 defines a plurality of retaining ports 135 at the upper and bottom side, the lateral wall 132 is formed with a stopping projection 1321 and a locking tab 134 at the front end thereof. The ejector 14 is assembled to the lateral wall 133 of the shell 13 and comprises a plug 142, an engaging ear 143 for mounting the printed circuit board and a frame 141. The

frame 141 has a plurality of retaining pads 143 corresponding to said retaining port 135 of the cover 131. The frame 141 of the ejector 14 further comprises a stopping projection 144 thereon. How the ejector 14 works is well known to persons skilled in the pertinent art, so it is not shown in the drawings and not described here.

[0016] Reference with FIG. 4, the shutter mechanism 15 comprises a mounting member 151, a door member 17 and a resilient member 18. The mounting member 151 comprises a base plate 152 and a first and a second arm 153, 154. The base plate 152 defines a recess 159 thereon. The first arm 153 vertically extends from one of opposite sides of the base plate 152 and defines an opening 156 corresponding to the locking tab 134. The second arm 154 comprises a vertical part 1541 and a horizontal part 1542 connecting to the vertical part 1541. Each of the first arm 153 and the horizontal part 1541 of the second arm 154 defines a rectangular cutout 158 with a metal spring 1580 therein, respectively. The metal springs 1580, respectively, mate with the stopping projections 1321, 144 of the shell 13 and the ejector 14, whereby, the first arm 153 is retained to the lateral wall 133 of the shell 13, and the second arm 154 is retained to the ejector 14. Each of the first and the second arms 153, 154 defines a hole 155 adjacent to the base plate 152. The first arm 153 defines a track 157 above the hole 155 thereof. The door member 17 is assembled to the first and second arm 153, 154 and comprises a base portion 171, a protrusion 176 at the center of the base portion 171, a pair of posts 172 formed at the opposite ends of the base portion 171, a cutout 178 adjacent to one of the posts 172 and a positioning post 175 above the one of posts 172 movable along the track 157. The base portion 171 defines a cavity 177 (shown in FIG. 5) at the inner face thereof. The cavity 177 and the post 172 of the door member 17 respectively engaging with the resilient member 18. Meantime, the protrusion 176 of the door member 17 is received in the recess 159 of the mounting

member 151.

[0017] Reference with FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, the resilient member 18 is preferably a spiral spring and comprises a twisted main body 180, a first finger 181 and a second finger 182 extending from opposite ends of the main body 180, respectively.

[0018] During assembly, the resilient member 18 is assembled to the post 172 and received in the cutout 178, the first finger 181 of the resilient member 18 is received in the cavity 177 of the base portion 171, and the second finger 182 engages with the base plate 152 of the mounting member 151. The door member 17 is assembled to the mounting member 151 by the post 172 received in the hole 155 of the base portion 171, and the positioning post 175 movably received in the track 157. The opening 156 of the first arm 153 engages with the locking tab 134, and the rectangular cutout 158 with the metal spring 1581 of the first arm 153 and the horizontal portion of the second arm 154 engage with the stopping projection 144, 1321 of the shell 13 and the ejector 14, whereby the shutter mechanism 15 and other member is assembled together firmly.

[0019] When a card (not shown) is inserted into the electrical card connector 1, a front end of the card pushes the door member 17 of the shutter mechanism 15 upwardly, and the positioning post 175 moves along the track 157. When the card is withdrawn from the electrical card connector 1, the door member resume automatically by the resilient member 18. In such a way, dust is kept out of the electrical card connector 1.

[0020] It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail,

especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.